

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, JA

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN-JAPANESE OFFICIAL TALKS IN

CANBERRA, JULY 30-31

1. BEGIN SUMMARY : AUSTRALIAN-JAPANESE TALKS AT OFFICIAL LEVEL HELD IN CANBERRA JULY 30-31. MULTILATERAL ISSUES DISCUSSED INCLUDED KOREA, CHINA, INDO-CHINA, AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. AUSTRALIANS TOLD JAPANESE THEY WERE RECONSIDERING THEIR LONG-STANDING OPPOSITION TO TREATY OF FREINDSHIP, BUT INDICATED IT WOULD NOT INCLUDE NAVIGATION. PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM WILL LEAD MINISTERIAL TEAM TO JAPAN FOR OFFICIAL VISIT IN LATE OCTOBER. END SUMMARY.

2. DFA (HANDMER, ASSISTNAT SECRETARY, NORTH ASIA BRANCH) REVIEWED WITH EMBOFF ON AUG 9 SUBSTANCE OF TALKS BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN AND JAPANESE OFFICIALS HELD IN CANBERRA JULY 30-31. JAPANESE DELEGAATION LED BY AMBASSADOR KURODA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF RESEARCH AND PLANNING IN GAIMUSHO, AND INCLUDED NAKAE (ASST DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ASIAN AFFAIRS BRUEAU), MUTO (ASST DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EUROPEAN AND OCEANIC AFFAIRS BUREAU), AND TANAKA (DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OCEANIC AFFAIRS). AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION LED BY K.C.L. SHANN, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

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AFFAIRS.

3. DISCUSSION FOCSSSED ON MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL ISSUES. MULTILATERAL MATTERS DISCUSSED INCLUDED KOREA, REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, CHINA AND INDO-CHINA. ON KOREA THE JAPANESE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE UN COMMAND AND SUSPCIAION AS TO SOVIET INTENTIONS TOWARDS KOREA AS A WHOLE. JAPANESE DID NOT DIRECTLY RELATE KDEVELOPMENT OF DOREAN SITUATION TO JAPANESE SECURITY, THOUGH AUSTRALIANS HAD ASSUMED THEY WOULD DO SO. ON REGIONAL ORGANZIATION THE AUSTRALIANS SUPPORTED THE ASEAN CONCEPT OF A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDON, AND NEUTRALITY. JAPANESE WERE VERY DUBIOUS THAT ANY-THINK WOULD COME OF THIS CONCEPT AND COMMENTED THAT NEUTRALIZATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA WOULD TEND TO CREATE A VACUUM WHITH WOULD ATTRACT FURTHER SOVIET INTEREST IN THE AREA. JAPANESE WERE CLEARLY OPPOSED TO SOVIET MEMBERSHIP IN ANY WIDER PACIFIC REGIONAL ORGANIZATION TO BE ESTABLISHED AND MADE THE POINT THAT THEY DID NOT CONSIDER THE SOVIET UNION TO BE AN ASIAN POWER. ON CHINA JAPANESE MADE CLEAR THEY WERE INCLUNED TO POST-PNE ANY MAJOR INITIATIVES UNTIL SUCCESSION TO MAO TSE-TUNG WAS ESTABLISHED, BUT NOTED THAT SINO-JAPANESE TRADE IS MOVING ALONG WELL. ON INDO-CHINA JAPANESE WERE VERY CAUTIOUS ABOUT FUTURE, NOTING PRESENT UN-CERTAINTIES IN SITUATION.

4. ON FILATERAL ISSUES, ONLY MAJOR NEW ITEM WAS DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATION OF TREAY OF FREINDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA. AUSTRALIAN POSITION IN PAST HAS CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED TREATIES OF FRIENDSHIP , COMMERCE,AND NAVIGATION WITH ALL STATES, INCLUDING U.S.'. ON BASIS THAT AUSTRALIA STANDS TO GAIN LITTLE FROM SUCH AGREEMENTS. HANDMER SAID THAT SIMILAR DFA VIEW HAD BEEN PUT FORWARD TO PRIME MINISTER (AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS) WHITLAM IN MAY, BUT WHITLAM RETURNED RECOMMENDATION WITH REQUEST THAT MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE BE TAKEN. DFA HAS NOW REVISED ITS RECOMMENDATION, RENAMING POTENTIAL TREATY ONE OF FREINDSHIP AND COOPERATION, ELIMINATING NAVIGATION SINCE THERE IS A VAST DISPROPORTION BETWEEN THE LARGE

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JAPANESE MERCHANT FLEET AND TEH MINISCULE AUSTRALIAN MERCHANT FLEET. HANDMER SAID THAT WHITLAM MAY DECIDE ON TREATY ISSUE IN NEXT MONTH OR SO.

5. IN BACKGROUND TO TREATY, WHICH JAPANESE HAVE UN-SUCCESSFULLY PRESSED ON AUSTRALIANS IN PAST, IS CON-TINUING JAPANESE ALLEGATION THAT JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN COMING TO AUSTRALIA FOR EXTENDED PERIOD OF RESIDENCE

(THREE OR FOUR YEARS) HAVE DIFFICULTY OBTAINING AUSTRALIAN VISAS. TREATY WOULD BE INTENDED TO FACILITATE ISSUANCE OF VISAS FOR THEM. AUSTRALIANS HAVE REPEATEDLY ASKED JAPANESE TO CITE SPECIFIC CASES WHERE INORDINATE DELAYS ENCOUNTERED. IN PAST AND AGAIN ON THIS OCCASION JAPANESE HAVE BEEN UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO CITE SPECIFIC CASE. HANDMER SAID THAT JAPANESE WERE TOLD THAT WHITLAM IS CONSIDERING A NEW RECOMMENDATION ON A TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BUT THAT DECISION NOT YET MADE.

6. ARRANGEMENTS WERE FINALIZED TO HOLD THE ANNUAL JAPAN-AUSTRALIA MINISTERIAL MEETING IN TOKYO, OCTOBER 29-30. WHITLAM WILL LEAD THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO THE TALKS AS PART OF AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO JAPAN OF TWO OR THREE DAYS. WHITLAM WILL BE ACCOMPANIED, ACCORDING TO PRESENT PLANS, BY MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS TRADE CAIRNS, MINISTER FOR MINERALS AND ENERGY CONNOR, AND MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY WRIEDT. FOLLOWING VISIT TO JAPAN, WHITLAM WILL VISIT CHINA. INFO THIS PARA HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED PUBLICLY AND SHOULD BE PROTECTED FOR THE PRESENT.

7. COMMENT: AUSTRALIAN-JAPANESE TALKS AT BOTH OFFICIAL AND MINISTERIAL LEVEL HAVE NOT DEVELOPED VERY FAR SINCE THEY WERE FIRST HELD TWO YEARS AGO. BEYOND EXCHANGES OF GENERALITIES ON SITUATION IN FAR EAST AND EXPRESSION OF CLASSIC JAPANESE SUSPICION AND DISLIKE OF SOVIETS, THIS MEETING WAS NO MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN ITS PREDECESSORS, MOST IMPORTANT FEATURE IS THAT IT WAS HELD AND THAT JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA, WHILE STILL PSYCHOLOGICALLY RATHER REMOTE FROM EACH OTHER, ARE IN CONTACT IN A LIMITED WAY.

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8. TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION, IF NEGOTIATED, COULD CONSTITUTE SIGNIFICANT BREAK IN PRESENT PATTERN. JAPANESE FEEL THEY HAVE A VISA PROBLEM IN AUSTRALIA, WHICH IS ULTIMATELY, NO DOUBT, RELATED TO VAGUE FEELINGS OF RACISM. WHITLAM IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN DISPELLING ANY SUCH FEELINGS, AS HE HAS AID BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS. IF TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP NEGOTIATED WITH JAPAN, AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITION TO FCN TREATY WITH U.S. MIGHT DIMINISH. U.S. BUSINESSMEN HAVE OCCASIONALLY COMPLAINED ABOUT TROUBLE IN OBTAINING AUSTRALIAN VISAS, AND SOLUTION FOR JAPANESE COULD BE PRECEDENT FOR U.S. AS WELL.

9. JAPANESE EMBASSY IN CANBERRA IS BEING STRENGTHENED

NOTICEABLY WITH APPOINTMENT OF YOSHIDA AS AMBASSADOR,
MASAJI TAKEHASHI (FORMERLY IN MANILA) AS FIRST SECRETARY
AND ANOTHER COMER, YASHUNORI KIKUCHI AS SECOND SECRETARY.
HARROP

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